

CARR-1014

Bethesda M. E. Church  
Bethesda U. M. Church  
328 North Klees Mill Road

1880

The original Bethesda Methodist Church was a log structure built in 1810. The congregation seems to have been frustrated on numerous occasions in their attempts to build as was noted in August 1880. The members of Bethesda M. E. Church . . . are at work putting up the brick work of their new church. Mr. Albinus Poole is contractor for the brick work, Mr. Joshua Dittman, carpenter, size 36 x 50. They have purchased the bricks from Mr. William H. Bell, of [Westminster]. By November it was reported that the church was nearly finished, and it was dedicated 23 January 1881. Judging from a date on one of the stained glass windows, they were added in 1908. Bethesda Church is one of the largest rural churches in southern Carroll County, contains some of the most elaborate stained glass for a rural church, and has great integrity, both inside and out.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Bethesda M. E. Church

and/or common Bethesda U.M. Church

## 2. Location

street & number 328 North Klees Mill Road ☐ not for publicationcity, town Winfield ☒ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Carroll

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Bethesda M. E. Church

street &amp; number 324 North Klees Mill Road telephone no.: 795-7677

city, town Sykesville state and zip code MD 21784

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Courthouse Annex liber

street &amp; number 55 North Court Street folio

city, town Westminster state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

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### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

**Summary:** The Bethesda M. E. Church is located on the west side of Klees Mill Road about 4 miles northeast of Winfield and 4 miles northwest of Eldersburg in south-central Carroll County. The church is a one-story, three-bay by four-bay structure of 6-1 common bond brick on a rubble stone foundation. The gable roof has slate shingles and a ridge that runs north-south. The south elevation has double doors on the end bays, with a central stained glass 1/1 lancet. In the gable end of the south elevation is a lanciform oculus with stained glass. In the southwest corner of the foundation is a marble stone carved with "M.E.C. 1880". The sanctuary is one large room. The ceiling is flat, with an eight-point star in the center. Hanging from the center is a large chandelier. Like the star above, it has eight arms, and each holds a glass oil lamp. The pews below are grained to imitate oak. There is a raised dais on the north end, with an altar rail around three sides. There is a cemetery east of the church, with stones set in even rows, facing west.

The Bethesda M. E. Church is located on the west side of Klees Mill Road about 4 miles northeast of Winfield and 4 miles northwest of Eldersburg in south-central Carroll County. The church is a one-story, three-bay by four-bay structure of 6-1 common bond brick on a rubble stone foundation. There is evidence of grey paint on the brick in several locations. The gable roof has slate shingles and a ridge that runs north-south. A change in brick on the south elevation indicates that the eaves of the roof have been raised six to eight feet, giving the gable a steeper pitch. The box cornice has returns. The south elevation has double doors on the end bays, with a central stained glass 1/1 lancet. The doors each have two flat, sunken panels with bolection mouldings. Above each door is a lanceolate transom with stained glass. Both are identical, with flowers inside a circle, and with a foliate surround. The windows and doors have granite sills and brick voussoirs. The window, like all of them, has a stylized four-petal flower inside of a diamond, in the center. Above this is a circle containing a different religious symbol in each one, and above the circle a fleur de lis. Below the center diamond is a square panel with a stylized flower that has many petals, and below this a memorial tablet in red glass. The outer margin is green, the inner margin purple, and the field is of clear glass with a pebble finish. Both the north bay and south central bay windows in both side elevations also have this color combination. The south and north-central bay windows, on the other hand, have an amber outer margin, a blue inner band, a clear, pebble finish field, and a tablet of mauve glass. In the gable end of the south elevation is a lanciform oculus with stained glass. It contains a dove and "Bethesda M. E. Church 1908". In the southwest corner of the foundation is a marble stone carved with "M.E.C. 1880". There is a tie rod between the central window and the oculus above. The west elevation has an interior brick chimney in the center that appears to have been rebuilt. There is no chimney on the east elevation. The north elevation has an addition built in 1966. Above it is a tie rod in the north wall of the church.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM**

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**Description (continued)**

**Section 7 Page 2**

The sanctuary is one large room. The floor is carpeted and the plaster walls have a three-color paint scheme with sand at the bottom, a narrow band of tan in the center, and white above. The doors on the south elevation have sunken panels with ogee panel moulds, and a flat wood surround with a beaded interior edge. On either side of the central window is a cast (bronze?) bracket supporting a glass oil lamp that has now been electrified. According to the pastor, all of these lamps in the church had been stored in the attic until recently, when they were electrified and reinstalled. Both the east and west walls have a matching lamp between the south and south-central bays, and between the north and north-central bays. There is a brick buttress between the center two bays. The windows do not have surrounds; instead, the plaster is rounded off on the corners. The frames have a beaded interior edge.

The ceiling is flat, with an eight-point star in the center, painted in yellow with a gold outline. Hanging from the center of the star is a large chandelier that matches the lamps on the walls. Like the star above, it has eight arms, and each holds a glass oil lamp. It too has been electrified. The pews below are grained to imitate oak. The arm rests are "S"-shaped, and are open underneath, between the arm rest and the seat. The base of each end has an applied moulding to imitate a semi-circular panel. This moulding has a cavetto on each side, with an astragal down the center. The pews are loose and are currently set up with a single central aisle, but many of the pews are short, and are butted together, suggesting that the original layout had two aisles, with short pews on both sides and long ones in the center. There is a raised dais on the north end, with an altar rail around three sides. The rail has turned balusters and a large turned newel, with a button on top, on each end. Behind the rail is a raised podium with a pulpit that is grained to imitate oak. Each side of the pulpit has a raised panel, with bosses in the four corners. Beyond the pulpit are three oak chairs with red velvet seats and backs. Above the top rail is an incised sunburst motif, topped by a fleur de lis, and on top of each end stile is a stylized Prince of Wales feather. According to the pastor the north elevation formerly had a fresco, now painted over, and the church plans to restore this. On either side of the dais is a new door to the rear wing.

There is a cemetery east of the church, with stones set in even rows, facing west.

## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1880 **Builder/Architect** Albinus Poole & Joshua Dittman

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

**Summary:** The original Bethesda Methodist Church was a log structure built in 1810. The congregation seems to have been frustrated on numerous occasions in their attempts to build as was noted in August 1880. The members of Bethesda M. E. Church . . . are at work putting up the brick work of their new church. Mr. Albinus Poole is contractor for the brick work, Mr. Joshua Dittman, carpenter, size 36 x 50. They have purchased the bricks from Mr. William H. Bell, of [Westminster]. By November it was reported that the church was nearly finished, and it was dedicated 23 January 1881. Judging from a date on one of the stained glass windows, they were added in 1908. Bethesda Church is one of the largest rural churches in southern Carroll County, contains some of the most elaborate stained glass for a rural church, and has great integrity, both inside and out.

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Development Period: Industrial-Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Historic Period Themes: Architecture, Religion

Resource Types: Church, Rural Vernacular

The original Bethesda Methodist Church was a log structure built in 1810. The land on which it stood was not deeded to the congregation until 19 June 1824, however. Until that time it had been in the possession of the Parish family. Additional land was sold to the church and cemetery by the Brown family on 10 February 1879, and by the Buckingham family on 15 January 1926. As early as 1870 it was noted that ". . . the old-time log meeting house is found far too small for the increasing congregation, and plans have already been devised for the erection of a commodious brick building, 45 x 60 feet, with a basement." It took some years, but the 1879 purchase of additional land was probably a prelude to construction, which began the following year. In April 1880, the American Sentinel noted:

The members of Bethesda M. E. Church, . . . intend to remove their old log church which is in rather a dilapidated condition and replace it with a new

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Significance (continued)

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brick edifice. The building committee . . . have contracted with Mr. Moses Parish, for the brick who is preparing to make them.

The congregation seems to have been frustrated on numerous occasions in their attempts to build. The plan of 1870 was postponed for a decade, and when resurrected, the building had to be made smaller. In addition, they had problems getting building materials, as was noted in August 1880.

The members of Bethesda M. E. Church . . . are at work putting up the brick work of their new church. Mr. Albinus Poole is contractor for the brick work, Mr. Joshua Dittman, carpenter, size 36 x 50. They having burnt two kilns of brick, both of them were unfit for use, with the exception of a few thousand, which detained them in the construction of their church. They have purchased the bricks from Mr. William H. Bell, of [Westminster].

By November it was reported that the church was nearly finished, and it was dedicated 23 January 1881. At that time it was described as ". . . a substantial brick building, 52 by 36, neatly frescoed, and well furnished throughout." Judging from a date on one of the stained glass windows, they were added in 1908. The only other significant change was the addition on the rear of the church in 1966. This replaced a free-standing social hall that was built in 1927.

Bethesda Church is one of the largest rural churches in southern Carroll County, contains some of the most elaborate stained glass for a rural church, and has great integrity, both inside and out. The survival of the original lamps is unique, and the restoration of the fresco, which was once very common in local churches, would add greatly to the historic importance of this building.

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1862 & 1877 maps

## PS-2746

STATE OF MARYLAND  
DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
596/617  
196.34A  
P2

STATE OF MARYLAND  
DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
847/457  
48.08A  
P498

JOSEPH C. WISBY  
354/317  
53.60A  
P138  
1 OF 2

STYUS REALTY, INC.  
711/617  
27.04A  
P6

KLEE  
MILL

MADON J. WEDENIK  
525/172  
27.69A  
P.36

JAMES D. BOKES  
53/199  
27.66A  
P337

STATE OF MARYLAND  
DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
610/383  
81.79A  
P305

WILLIAM J. DUEHN  
323/85  
82.20A  
P107

STATE OF MARYLAND  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
673/60  
76.50A  
P142

DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
STATE OF MARYLAND  
591/575  
54.00A  
P287

STATE OF MARYLAND  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
693/1705  
90.94A  
P430

WESTMINSTER  
NURSERIES, INC.  
1271/638  
96.73A  
P546

MILTON F.  
POBLETTS  
382/408  
25.59A  
P16

DAVID MOORE SCOTT  
377/628  
47.04A  
P.20

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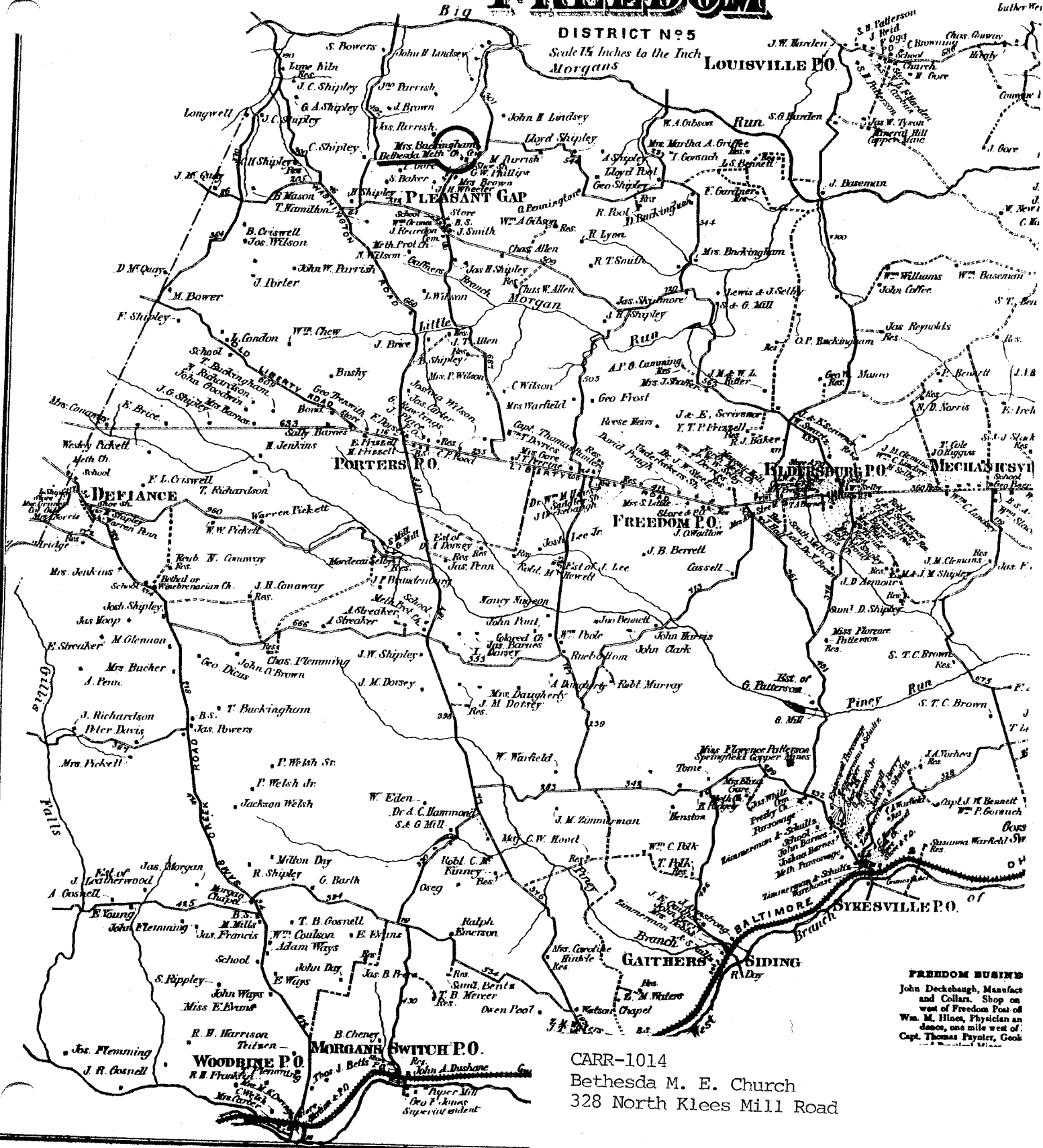
# FREEDOM

Big

DISTRICT N°5

Scale 1 1/2 Inches to the Inch  
Morgans

LOUISVILLE P.O.

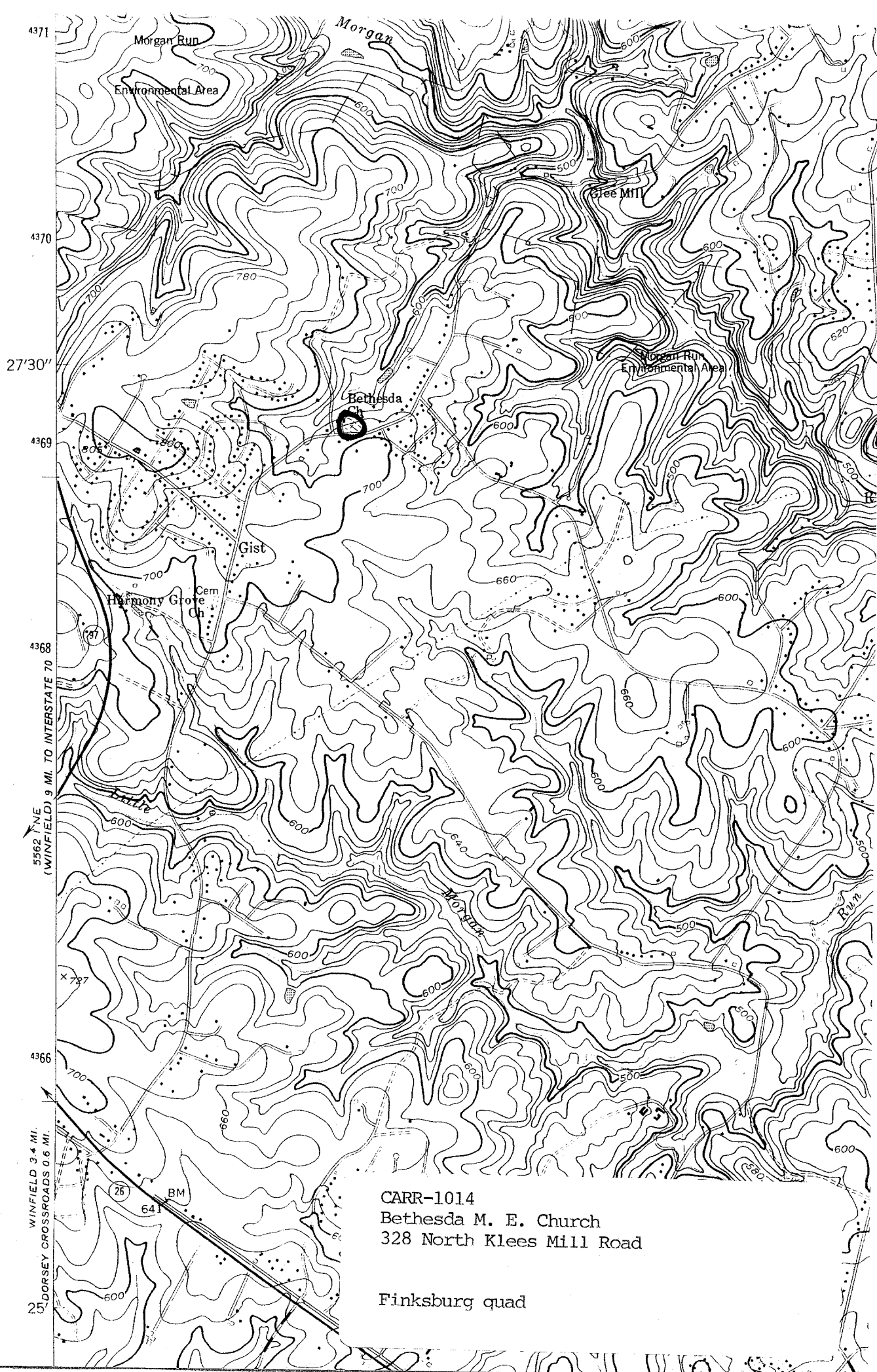


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Lake, Griffin & Stevenson Atlas, 1877

**FREEDOM BUSINESS**  
John Deckebaugh, Manufact  
and Collars. Shop on  
west of Freedom Post of  
Wm. M. Hines, Physician an  
dancer, one mile west of  
Capt. Thomas Paynter, Cook





Bethesda m.e. Church  
328 N. Klees Mill Rd.

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: April 1993

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
west and south elevations



Bethesda M.E. Church  
328 North Klee Mill Road  
Carroll County, Maryland  
Photo: Kenneth M. Short  
Date: March 1993

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
interior: view northeast





Bethesda M.E. Church  
328 North Klee Mill Road  
Carroll County, Maryland  
Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: March 1993

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
interior - view south

3/93



Bethesda m.E. Church  
328 North Klee Mill Road  
Carroll County, Maryland  
Photo: Kenneth M. Short  
Date: March 1993

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
interior - chandelier